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App'd PCT 18 SEP 2006

Atty. Dkt. No. 046262-0143

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Motohiro IKAWA
Title: VOLUME CONTROL METHOD, VOLUME
CONTROLLER, VOLUME CONTROL
PROGRAM, ELECTRONIC APPARATUS
Appl. No.: Unassigned
Filing Date: 9/18/2006
International PCT/JP2005/003973
Appl. No.:
International 3/8/2005
Filing Date:
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: Unassigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be

appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR §1.491.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Documents A1 through A6 listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 were cited in the International Search Report in Applicant's International Application PCT/JP2005/003973. A copy of the International Search Report is attached setting forth the portion of each reference considered relevant by the examiner.

Documents A1 and A3 belong to the same "patent family," whereby the English language document may assist the PTO in understanding the content of the non-English language document.

Documents A2 and A6 belong to the same "patent family," whereby the English language document may assist the PTO in understanding the content of the non-English language document.

The relevance of the non-English language document A7 is described in the present specification. Unless otherwise indicated, no English translation is readily available (not considering machine-generated translations that may be freely available online, to both the Applicant and the PTO) for each of the non-English language documents. However, a commercially available English language abstract is provided herewith, where indicated on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. Inasmuch as Applicant has endeavored to provide at least one item that complies with the requirement for a "concise explanation of relevance" for each of the non-English language documents, each of these documents has been submitted in compliance with the PTO requirements and should be considered by the Examiner (37 CFR §1.97, §1.98 and MPEP §609). Any document listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 was cited as

10/593163
10/593163 SEP 2006

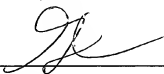
Atty. Dkt. No. 046262-0143

being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding International application. A copy of the International Search Report is attached setting forth the portion of each document considered relevant by the examiner. An English-language counterpart of the foreign-language documents has been provided where readily available. The absence of a translation or an English-language counterpart document does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider any submitted document (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP§609).

Applicant respectfully requests that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Although Applicant believes that no fee is required for this Request, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Request to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Date: September 18, 2006

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
Date Submitted: September 18, 2006
(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number Unassigned
Filing Date 09/18/2006
First Named Inventor Motohiro IKAWA
Group Art Unit Unassigned
Examiner Name Unassigned
Attorney Docket Number 046262-0143

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
/GM/	A1	2002/0031236	A1	SHIMIZU ET AL.	03-14-2002	
/GM/	A2	2001/0026624	A1	KON ET AL.	10-04-2001	

UNPUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	U.S. Patent Application Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Filing Date of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Serial Number	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴				
/GM/	A3	JP	2002-101485	A	SONY CORP	04-05-2002	ABS
/GM/	A4	JP	2004-13084	A	SHARP CORP	01-15-2004	ABS
/GM/	A5	JP	2003-318673	A	MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP	11-07-2003	ABS
/GM/	A6	JP	2001-285983	A	SANYO ELECTRIC CO	10-12-2001	ABS
/GM/	A7	JP	11-68484	A	AIWA CO LTD	03-09-1999	ABS

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

Examiner Signature

/George Monikang/

Date Considered

02/19/2008

*EXAMINER: Initial reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 809. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.